

# THE MILITANT

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**‘Cuban Revolution fights all forms of discrimination’ –Mariela Castro in US**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 24 JUNE 18, 2012

## Obama: less rights, more drones—don’t worry, it’s legit

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

When President Barack Obama was campaigning for president in 2008 he condemned the assaults on constitutional rights and military operations that marked the George W. Bush administration’s “war on terror.” On his second day in office, Obama issued several executive orders as a symbol of the new administration’s break with the past and pledged to “restore the standards of due process and ... core constitutional values.”

But over the last three and a half years Obama has in fact deepened the assault, strengthening the executive powers of his office and establishing new legal precedents to legitimize major aspects of it—from indefinite detentions and military tribunals to presidential-ordered assassinations of U.S. citizens. Unlike his predecessor, Obama has intimately involved him-

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## Cat strikers vote down 2nd giveback proposal

‘We’re sticking together, prepared for fight’



Militant/Betsy Farley  
Strikers opposing Caterpillar concession demands picket outside Joliet, Ill., plant May 3.

**BY ALYSON KENNEDY**

JOLIET, Ill.—Proudly wearing red union T-shirts, more than 600 striking members of Machinists Local 851 poured out of the union hall May 30 after rejecting, in a 504-116 vote, Caterpillar bosses’ second contract proposal.

“I voted no! And I have a picture of it,” said Robert Mitchell, 26, holding up his cell phone.

“I have never seen solidarity like this, and I have been here 42 years,” said David Crater. The company offer

“was bad the first time and degrading the second time.”

The 780 members of International Association of Machinists Local 851

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## Black, labor groups call NY protest against ‘stop and frisk’

**BY JOHN STUDER**

NEW YORK—“Stop and frisk is the most massive local racial profiling program in the country,” Benjamin Jealous, president of the NAACP, told a May 15 press conference here announcing a march to protest the city cops’ program on Father’s Day, June

**JOIN JUNE 17 NY PROTEST!**  
—SWP campaign statement, p. 9

17. Jealous was joined by leaders of Black and Latino civil rights organizations and labor unions, as well as the New York Civil Liberties Union, church leaders and others.

“This is an issue for all people of color and all people of conscience,” said George Gresham, president of Service Employees International Union Local 1199, which along with the Transit Workers Union has issued leaflets to mobilize its members for the march.

Dozens of immigrant rights groups

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**Spring ‘Militant’ subscription campaign**  
**April 14 - June 17 (week 7)**

Country	quota	sold	%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Philadelphia	90	79	88%
Los Angeles*	170	149	88%
New York	260	221	85%
Atlanta**	200	169	85%
Lincoln**	45	37	82%
Seattle*	190	156	82%
Twin Cities*	155	127	82%
Denver†	10	8	80%
Chicago*	170	127	75%
Boston	60	44	73%
Des Moines*	140	102	73%
San Francisco	175	122	70%
Houston	90	62	69%
Pittsburgh†	6	4	67%
Washington*	75	49	65%
Miami	100	62	62%
<b>Total US</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
London*	140	123	88%
Manchester*	60	58	97%
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>CANADA*</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND*</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA*</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2393</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>78%</b>

\* Raised goal \*\*Raised twice † New to scoreboard

**2,400**

**1,916**

**should be**

## 2 weeks left, 480 more subscribers to sign up!

**BY LOUIS MARTIN**

At the end of the seventh week of a nine-week international campaign to win 2,400 subscribers to the *Militant*, we stand on course at 1,916. The campaign ends June 17, just before the international socialist education and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio. (See ad at the end of article.)

Members of the Socialist Workers Party campaigned June 3 in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn with Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

Fein used a bullhorn urging people to join a June 17 march and protest against the N.Y. cops’ stop-and-frisk operation that targets working people, particularly Black and Latino young

**Continued on page 3**

## Workers locked out by sugar bosses launch Midwest solidarity caravan



Militant/Frank Forrester  
Caravan of workers locked-out by American Crystal near Grand Forks, N.D., June 2.

**BY TOM FISKE AND FRANK FORRESTER**

DRAYTON, N.D.—Two dozen sugar workers and their supporters began a seven-day, 200-mile caravan here May 31 to draw attention to their fight against American Crystal Sugar Co.

The workers are traveling by foot and hay wagon (pulled by a bobcat tractor), along a route to Moorhead, Minn., that connects the five towns in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota where they used to work processing sugar beets in the compa-

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# Alabama rally protests anti-immigrant law

BY RACHELE FRUIT

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Some 800, mostly working people, gathered at the Capitol grounds here May 27 to protest the latest version of the state’s anti-immigrant law.

The Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice organized the actions, which included a march from the Capitol to the Governor’s Mansion “to show that we are united and will continue to defy racial profiling and anti-immigrant laws in our state,” according to a press statement.

The law, known as HB 658, was signed May 18. It revises HB 56, which has been the focus of protests throughout Alabama over the past year.

“We’re fighting for basic human rights, to live and to work,” Cesar Mata, a restaurant worker and an organizer of the contingent from Birmingham, told the *Militant*.

Among the slogans were “We are workers, not criminals,” “No Human Being is Illegal” and “Repeal HB 658! No Tweaks!”

Touted as a “reform,” the tweaked law is not qualitatively different. It no longer mandates, but strongly encourages public schools to check the status of students and parents. Penalties for bosses and landlords for hiring or renting to immigrants without papers are generally lowered, but a number of stipulations for immigrants themselves or those convicted of “harboring” them are stricter. It is no longer illegal for an immigrant without papers to establish utility services or register mobile homes, but it still criminalizes applying

for ID, car tags or business licenses. Police are no longer required to check immigration status of people they pull over and suspect may be undocumented unless they issue a traffic ticket or conduct an arrest. But when they do, the check must now include passengers.

Alabama’s targeting of undocumented workers builds on stepped up attacks by the federal government, from “silent raids” and “criminal” sweeps to the record removal of 396,000 in 2011.



Militant/Alex Huinil

“We fight for right to live and work,” said Cesar Mata at May 27 immigrant rights rally in Montgomery, Ala.

## NAACP champions civil rights of same-sex couples

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The position adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in support of equality in civil unions for same-sex couples deserves unequivocal backing from working people. The position helps strengthen the working class by striking a blow against discrimination.

“Civil marriage is a civil right and a matter of civil law. The NAACP’s support for marriage equality is deeply rooted in the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution,” Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, said at a press conference May 21 in Baltimore, announcing the resolution adopted by the organization’s board

of directors.

“We will oppose threats to the 14th Amendment guarantee of equal rights under the law in any state where this issue is raised,” he said. Civil rights “must be provided equally to all Americans.”

The statement drew a parallel to the fight starting in the 1950s by Mildred and Richard Loving “to end legally sanctioned marriage inequality based on race.” The Lovings—Richard was white and Mildred was Black—pressed their case to the Supreme Court and won a ruling overturning Virginia’s Racial Integrity Act, which banned interracial marriage. The NAACP said its position on civil unions for gays is rooted in that 1967 decision ruling the criminalization of interracial marriages unconstitutional.

The NAACP resolution is one of many confirmations of growing support for ending legal discrimination against gays.

A survey by ABC News and the *Washington Post* shows 53 percent in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage today compared to 36 percent in 2006. Among African-Americans the figure is 59 percent, up from 41 percent in their previous poll in the spring. Among younger adults up to the age of 30, some 70 percent are in favor.

These sentiments increasingly clash with the 1996 so-called Defense of Mar-

riage Act, signed into law by President William Clinton. It defined marriage as “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.” It has been used to bar gay and lesbian couples from obtaining a variety of federal benefits, barring them from filing joint tax returns or collecting Social Security survivor benefits.

On May 9 President Barack Obama came out in favor of same-sex marriage rights, but maintained that each state should decide. He stressed that this new position reflected an “evolution” of his personal opinion, pressed on him by his daughters and empathy with homosexual friends and colleagues. His record of flipping back and forth on the issue, however, supports the widely held view that his position over the last 16 years has been based on his calculated political ambitions.

### A celebration of the life and political contributions of Stu Singer

Longtime member and then supporter of the Socialist Workers Party  
Singer died June 1 after a battle with cancer

Saturday, June 16

New York City

Time and location to be announced

## THE MILITANT

‘Our politics start with the world’

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Demonstrators May 22 demand electrification in Yangon and throughout Myanmar.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.



Subscription campaign

Continued from front page men. (See article on front page.) Bed-Stuy is predominantly African-American.

“We got a very receptive response. Several people thanked us for what we were doing, seeing the Socialist Workers campaign and the *Militant* as part of the fight against stop and frisk and police brutality,” writes Deborah Liatos who campaigned with Fein. “We sold five subscriptions, two with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and 19 single copies of the paper.”

The *Workers Power* book and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*, both by Jack Barnes, are offered at a reduced price during the subscription campaign. (See ad on this page.)

Socialist workers from Seattle sold 14 subscriptions going door to door in Yakima, Wash., writes John Nubert. Farmworkers employed in the surrounding area bought 13 of them. In addition seven Teamster workers, officials and other supporters have signed up for the *Militant* since the beginning of their strike against Davis Wire in Kent, Wash. (See article on page 5.)

Michel Dugré reports from Montreal that members of the Communist League have sold four subscriptions and four copies of the French-language edition of the *Workers Power* book at Plats du

Chef, a food preparation plant where he works. “The international coverage in the *Militant* is a strong point with a number of my coworkers,” says Dugré.

*Militant* supporters in London raised their quota by 10, in New Zealand by five and in Denver by three this week—bringing us just seven short of our international goal.

With two weeks to go, spare no effort. Let’s go over the top!

Socialist Education and Active Workers Conference

Oberlin, Ohio, June 21-23

For more information, contact distributors on page 8



Marsha Metz, left, renewing *Militant* subscription June 2 at her home in Fort Madison, Iowa. At right is Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers candidate for Iowa House of Representatives, 36th District. Metz was part of 10-month fight against Roquette America lockout in Keokuk, Iowa.

Locked-out sugar workers launch caravan

Continued from front page ny’s factories.

Bosses locked out some 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Aug. 1, 2011, after the workers voted to reject the company’s contract demands.

The company is pressing for concessions that include the ability to replace union jobs with nonunion contract workers, ending seniority as the basis for recalling workers after seasonal layoffs, expanding the number of second-tier workers with lower wages and benefits

and less vacation time, raising employee health care costs and eliminating retiree health benefits.

The company prepared well in advance for the strike, lining up hundreds of scabs. The workers responded with pickets and periodic demonstrations, winning solidarity from other workers throughout the region.

The caravan is scheduled to end June 6 with a protest near American Crystal’s corporate headquarters two days ahead of the first formal talks between the union and company since February.

Billed as “a caravan for cooperation

and negotiation,” the union seeks to use the action to highlight the inflexibility of the company. As reported in several newspapers, the union says it is willing to discuss concessions on the main points of contention.

“Our shareholders have given us the message that they really want us to stand by our final offer,” American Crystal Sugar Vice President Brian Ingulsrud told Associated Press.

“We are going on the caravan to tell people in this area that we the workers are still here and we are not giving up,” Jack Teigen, a sugar worker with 34 years at the East Grand Forks plant, told the *Militant*. “For me, the issues of seniority and medical care are both very important. We have accomplished something in this fight, which is togetherness. The union is stronger. But the fight is also starting to wear on everybody.”

Teigen began the journey riding a horse. Seven workers began the journey on motorcycle at the head of the caravan.

“We are marching to make it clear we are still fighting and the company refuses to negotiate,” said Wayne Netterlund, a boiler operator at the plant here. “The fight against the lockout has cost the company a lot of money and made us stronger as a union. There is more solidarity among the workers who have been active in the struggle.”

‘I learn a lot from Militant,’ says contributor

BY LEA SHERMAN

More than \$100,000 has been sent in for the Militant Fighting Fund as the drive to raise \$120,000 to cover the paper’s operating expenses enters its final week. Supporters of the *Militant* are poised to bring the drive

home.

“I support the *Militant* because I’ve learned a lot from it about struggles that other news sources don’t cover. In the *Militant* international news about other workers’ actions is great,” said Alisvan Montano, a long-term subscriber. He is one of seven workers at an industrial kitchen near the San Francisco airport who have contributed to the effort.

Jacquie Henderson reported that she was sending an envelope with \$460 in contributions, bringing Houston’s total to \$4,271, several hundred dollars

over their \$4,000 goal.

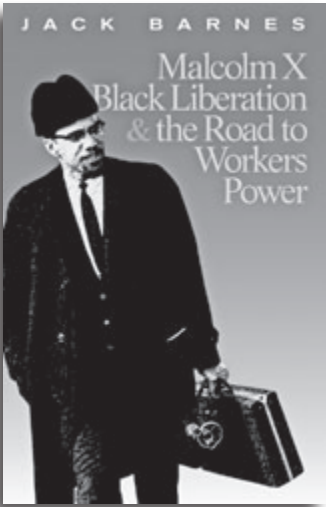
“Several readers told us they had been following the progress of the drive in the pages of the paper,” Henderson said. “They noticed we were a bit short in Houston and in the international total and wanted to help the drive go over the top.”

All contributions sent in by June 11 will be counted toward the goal. Contact distributors of the *Militant* listed on page 8, or send a check or money order, made out to the *Militant* to: The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

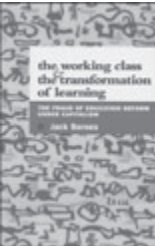


“Don’t start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It’s the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over.”

—Jack Barnes

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The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning by Jack Barnes \$2 with a subscription; \$3 without.



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<i>‘Militant’ Fighting Fund</i>			
April 14–June 4 (week 6)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle	\$8,800	\$8,981	102%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$8,552	99%
Houston	\$4,000	\$3,811	95%
Lincoln	\$375	\$348	93%
Miami	\$3,200	\$2,966	93%
Washington	\$7,600	\$6,945	91%
Des Moines	\$2,200	\$1,975	90%
Twin Cities*	\$7,200	\$6,100	85%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$7,110	79%
Boston*	\$4,000	\$3,146	79%
New York	\$21,000	\$16,484	78%
San Francisco	\$15,000	\$10,407	69%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$6,851	69%
Philadelphia*	\$4,400	\$2,471	56%
Total US	\$105,375	\$86,147	82%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$7,270	104%
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,500	\$4,420	98%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$1,190	79%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$700	\$910	130%
Manchester	\$375	\$464	124%
Total UK	\$1,075	\$1,374	128%
FRANCE	\$320	\$357	112%
Total	\$119,770	\$100,758	84%
Should be	\$120,000	\$103,200	86%
* Raised goal			

A celebration of the life and political contributions of Maceo Dixon (1949-2012) Longtime member and then supporter of the Socialist Workers Party Sunday, June 10 Reception 2 p.m. Program 3 p.m. Clarkston Community Center 3701 College Ave. Tel. (770) 891-5852

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS— TEXAS Houston The Second American Revolution: How It Was Won, How It Changed the World. Speaker: Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 18th C.D. Fri., June 15, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St. Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.



# Iran target of joint US, Israeli computer sabotage operation

BY LOUIS MARTIN

A June 1 front page *New York Times* article outlined for the first time the yearslong cyberwar that the U.S. and Israeli governments have jointly waged against Iran as part of their effort to force Teheran to abandon its nuclear program.

Sabotage and spy operations directed at Iranian computer networks is part of a broader imperialist-led assault against the country, including crippling economic sanctions, assassinations of nuclear scientists, bombings and military threats.

The Iranian government says the purpose of its uranium enrichment program is to develop the capacity to produce nuclear fuel for much-needed energy production and isotopes for medical research. Washington and its imperialist allies maintain that Tehran is working to obtain nuclear weapons.

The *Times* report on Washington's involvement in computer sabotage came days after researchers at Kaspersky Lab, a Moscow-based security company, reported that a virus nicknamed Flame had infected hundreds of computers in Iran and other Mideast countries.

According to Kaspersky, Flame is designed to copy and steal data, turn on a computer microphone and record all the sounds in its vicinity, take screen shots, read documents and emails, capture passwords and logins, and communicate with and determine the location of other nearby computers via Bluetooth.

"The malicious program," wrote the *Los Angeles Times*, "left experts all but certain that a government sponsor intent on cyberwarfare and intelligence-gathering was behind [the effort] ... because of the likely cost of such a sophisticated endeavor."

The *New York Times* article described how the current administration of President Barack Obama accelerated a cyberwar program code-named "Olympic Games," initiated in 2006 by the previous administration of George W. Bush and aimed at disrupting Iran's nuclear program.

With the help of a special Israeli military unit, says the *Times*, the National Security Agency and other U.S. government agencies developed two cyberweapons aimed at Iran's Natanz nuclear plant—one designed "to draw

the equivalent of an electrical blueprint" of the plant, the other to inflict damage based on that information.

The latter was the infamous Stuxnet—a computer worm that inflicted substantial damage to networks and centrifuges used to enrich uranium at the facility in the summer of 2010.

"The attack on Iran," wrote the website ProPublica, "became the first known instance of the U.S. using computer code to physically damage another country's infrastructure."

The *New York Times* article was published barely a week after talks between the Iranian government and representatives from the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the U.S.) plus Germany about Iran's nuclear program ended in a stalemate.

The two-day meeting came to naught when Teheran turned down demands,



Iran's Natanz nuclear plant was target of Stuxnet computer worm, one of weapons used in cyberwar against Tehran that did substantial damage to plant network and centrifuges.

among other things, that it close the Fordow nuclear plant near Qom, stop enriching uranium to 20 percent and let the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency inspect the Parshin munitions plant near Tehran—in exchange for some aid that included parts for civil aircraft.

The Iranian government was looking for a reduction of existing sanctions and recognition of its right to enrich uranium. The parties agreed to meet again June 18 in Moscow, less than two weeks before a series of new sanctions by the U.S. and the European Union on Iran's banks and oil industry become effective.

## President Obama: less rights, more drones

Continued from front page

self in directing hunter-killer operations carried out by aerial drone pilots and commando hit squads from Pakistan to Yemen to Somalia—which have mushroomed under his watch.

Among Obama's inaugural executive decrees was a pledge to close the Pentagon's notorious military prison camp at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, within a year. Today it's still open with 169 prisoners. The administration's policy has been to send no new prisoners there, but instead to expand its prison at the U.S. airbase in Bagram, Afghanistan, where some 2,000 languish further from public attention and without a pretense of any rights.

The order's fine print made clear the president was not challenging the indefinite detention of detainees without charges. Inmates "not approved for release or transfer," the order said, "shall be evaluated to determine ... whether it is feasible to prosecute" them.

Two months later the administration was filing its first court brief defending indefinite military detention for Guantánamo detainees under executive war-time powers. In May of that year Obama defended his prerogative to indefinitely hold those "who cannot be prosecuted yet who pose a clear danger." His administration has designated 46 prisoners for detention without trial.

Another executive order signed on Obama's second day announced the closure of secret CIA "detention facilities," commonly referred to as "black sites." The order included a clause stating that "detention facilities ... do not refer to facilities used only to hold people on a short term, transitory basis."

The undefined "short term" and "transitory basis" allowed the CIA to continue its practice of "extraordinary renditions" to other countries for "enhanced interrogation," with a new air of legitimacy. In September 2010, a U.S. appeals court ruled in favor of the Obama administration, dismissing a suit by five victims of torture under the CIA's renditions program based on the government's "state secrets" privilege.

In his first week in office President Obama suspended military commissions at Guantánamo. In March 2011

Obama issued an executive order resuming them with some minor tweaks. Some three dozen have been designated by the current administration to face military "justice" in which the Pentagon assigns military officers to serve as judge and jury and the use of secret evidence and hearsay is permitted.

Another presidential order in March 2011 further validated indefinite detention by establishing a periodic government review of Guantánamo prisoners slated for military prosecution or considered neither fit for trial nor release.

Since assuming office the Obama administration has conducted nearly 300 drone strikes—255 of which have taken place in Pakistan, according to the Long War Journal website. This is roughly six times more than were carried out during the entire Bush administration.

The current president has taken a peculiar interest in the remote assassination campaign. "Obama has placed himself at the helm of a top secret 'nominations' process to designate terrorists for kill or capture, of which the capture part has become largely theoretical," said a May 29 article in the *New York Times* titled "Secret 'Kill List' Proves a Test of Obama's Principles and Will."

The president approves every name on the kill list and every strike in Yemen and Somalia, as well as many of the "more complex and risky strikes in Pakistan," the *Times* said. "Every week or so, more than 100 members of the government's sprawling national security apparatus gather, by secure video teleconference, to pore over terrorist suspects' biographies and recommend to the president who should be the next to die," reported the paper. The president's strikes have included some that were certain to result in what the administration counts as civilian casualties. The official civilian body count is kept low by recording all men in a strike zone as combatants, unnamed officials told the *Times*.

Obama's first strike in Yemen in December 2009 killed more than 40 civilians, including women and children, and left behind a number of deadly cluster bombs to kill more. More recently a May 6 airstrike reportedly killed Fahd al-Quso, an alleged al-Qaeda leader, and 19-year-old Nasser Salim, who was

tending to his farm when al-Quso drove into the area.

The latest U.S. drone assault June 4 in Pakistan's tribal agency of North Waziristan killed 15 "suspected militants," according to the Long War Journal. It was the eighth strike in Pakistan in 12 days. Since April, Washington has conducted 14 airstrikes in Yemen.

The Obama administration has established a protocol in Pakistan and Yemen that targets unidentified people based on "patterns of behavior" and "gathering places," according to numerous press reports.

Last September a U.S. drone strike killed U.S.-born citizen Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen after Obama publicly announced he put him on the hit list. That decision was "an easy one" Obama told associates, according to the *Times*.

Following the killing, the administration declared the president's authority to assassinate citizens who pose an "imminent threat" if "capture is not feasible," as Attorney General Eric Holder put it in a speech March 5 at Northwestern University School of Law. Referring to the Fifth Constitutional Amendment's prohibition on taking life without due process, Holder said "'due process' and 'judicial process' are not one and the same." In other words, as long as the administration has really mulled it over and Congress is not complaining, don't worry, it's all good.

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## — ON THE PICKET LINE —

### Canada rail workers end strike in face of government decree

MONTREAL—Some 4,800 Teamster-organized workers at Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd ended their strike June 1, following adoption by Canada's parliament of a law ordering them back to work.

The law sends the disputed contract issues to a government-appointed arbitrator with a mandate to impose a settlement within 90 days. The union contract expired Dec. 31.

The company called back more than 2,000 other workers it had laid off during the strike.

CP, the country's second largest rail company, is a major transporter of grain, minerals, coal, lumber and other commodities, as well as manufactured products like automobiles. The nine-day strike tied up hundreds of millions of dollars in cargo.

"We are opposed to the government's law because it means employers are not going to bargain if they think the government is going to intervene every time there is a strike," said Éric Paquette, Teamsters union division 268 chair in Montreal, in a phone interview.

The central issues are pension cuts and longer shifts.

"The train crews have a lot of responsibility," said Paquette. "Both for passengers and long freight trains carrying dangerous materials. The issue of work fatigue due to long hours is a question of preventing catastrophes."

CP did not answer the *Militant's* request for comments.

—John Steele

### Chicago teachers rally ahead of contract expiration

CHICAGO—More than 5,000 teachers and their supporters rallied at Auditorium Theatre and marched to the Chicago Board of Education here May 23 in a demonstration of resolve leading up to the June 30 expiration of their union contract.

Under negotiation between teachers and Chicago Public Schools are salaries, a longer school day, school resources, as well as the city's expansion of privately run charter schools.

A new law signed by Democratic Gov. Patrick Quinn last June says 75 percent of all union members must vote to strike before they can legally walk off the job.

The May 23 action was the first citywide teachers rally in decades.

—John Hawkins



### Atlanta school workers protest denial of unemployment payments

ATLANTA—School bus drivers and cafeteria workers were among those protesting outside the Georgia Department of Labor June 1 to oppose a new ruling denying unemployment payments to workers at private schools during the summer break.

"I was in a bubble before this," Kelley Thomas, a grill cook at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, told the *Militant*. "But my bubble was pierced when they took this away and I saw how it directly affects me." The policy change came too late to find summer work, Thomas said. Now she is scrambling to make ends meet.

"I will make the trip here time and time again if that's what it takes," said bus driver Alvin Edwards. He came up from Savannah where some 800 school bus drivers and other workers for private bus company First Student are affected.

The 50 workers and union supporters marched into the Department of Labor office, but were told no one was available to meet with them.

"Our limited resources for unemployment benefits are reserved for people who have lost their job through no fault of their own and are seeking another job," said a statement from the office of Labor Commissioner Mark Butler.

In another development, the Georgia Department of Labor has instituted a policy of denying unemployment benefits to any worker who fails a drug test while trying to get a job. In March the department began requesting companies notify the agency if a job applicant fails a drug test.

—Janice Lynn

### Florida nurses picket in fight for first contract

HIALEAH, Fla.—Nurses fighting for a first contract held an informational picket line in front of the Palmetto General Hospital here May 11.

"We voted in the union last year," Rema Ajithkumar, a pediatrics nurse and member of National Nurses Unit-



Militant/Clay Dennison

Teamsters picket Davis Wire in Kent, Wash. From left to right: Tam Huynh, Thanh Tran and Robert Bruner. On May 12 workers voted 51-4 to strike over bosses' contract demands.

ed, told the *Militant*. "We're now negotiating to address basic issues of patient care."

She and other pickets said some nurses are expected to care for as many as twice the recommended number of patients based on national standards.

"Why can't they treat the nurses fairly, like they would want to be treated, and provide good care to everyone, not just VIPs?" asserted Zoe Hare, an intensive care nurse with 20 years at Palmetto.

"We remain in negotiations and are at loggerheads on staffing protections," union spokesperson John Stead-Mendez explained in a May 31 phone interview.

Some 500 nurses work at the hospital.

The public relations department of Palmetto General Hospital has not returned calls requesting comment.

—Naomi Craine

### Teamsters strike Davis Wire: 'We couldn't take it anymore'

KENT, Wash.—"This last year brought things to a boiling point. We couldn't take it anymore," said Robert Bruner, a member of Teamsters Local 117 and shop steward who was among pickets outside Davis Wire here where 85 workers went on strike May 21.

Frequent honks from passing trucks

and cars greet strikers in this industrial town just south of Seattle.

The pickets describe working conditions that include long hours, weeks without a day off, no breaks and injuries.

"The environment is just crazy. We are working harder and faster. The rate of accidents is more since they have been pushing employees," said galvanizing worker Thien Cao.

"We have to speed the machines up and people lose fingers, people get hurt, people fall off trucks," said Bruner.

The union members rejected a proposed contract 54-1 on Feb. 29. On May 12 they voted 51-4 to strike. The company responded by laying off 28 workers a couple days later, strikers said.

Workers said they had worked nine weeks straight prior to the second vote. They pointed to large increases in health insurance costs as a demand they could not accept.

"The purpose of the layoff is they want to separate us out. So nobody would have enough spirit," said John Dao, a veteran of 32 years at the plant. "Everyone is down on the picket line, including the ones that got laid off. They separated us but we're back together."

Davis Wire has not responded to requests from the *Militant* for comments.

—Clay Dennison

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



June 19, 1987

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—A massive one-day protest strike June 1 paralyzed British Columbia, Canada's most western province. Some 350,000 unionists participated in the action against two antiunion laws that are being rammed through the BC provincial legislature.

Bill 19 would establish a government commission with virtually unlimited powers to bust unions and break strikes. Right-to-work clauses would open closed shops, gut seniority provisions in contracts, and provide special privileges to nonunion workers. Strikers could be ordered back to work anytime it is deemed "in the public interest."

The one-day action came on the heels of a victorious 17-week strike by the wood workers' union against a concession contract. Most people interviewed by the *Militant* felt that the antiunion legislation was designed to prevent another labor victory.



June 18, 1962

NEW HAVEN—With 3,000 pickets covering every gate but one at the Winchester division of the Olin Mathieson Company, this city is awakening to the power of its workers. Production of the Army's new M-14 rifles has been stopped; also shut down are departments producing sporting arms, ammunition and the Ramset fastening tool.

Local 609 of the International Association of Machinists began negotiations for a new contract in March but for 20 wearying sessions the company offered the union only a cent-an-hour fringe benefit. The strike's main issue is job security. A special Strike Relief fund has been set up to appeal to other unions.

About 1,200 of the striking workers are Negroes. A win would establish the idea of unity and integration between black and white workers in a common struggle against exploitation and for mutual improvement.



May 1, 1937

Over in St. Paul [Minn.] a group of people labeling themselves the "People's Lobby," descended upon the state capitol. While the People's Lobby were beseeching senators, the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, a real bona fide organization of the working class, was engaged in a different and more worthwhile enterprise. The organization, recognizing the futility of attempting to bring about real lasting economic reforms for the workers through the medium of legislation, had long before started a campaign aimed toward putting more food in the mouths of W.P.A. workers, more clothes on their backs.

While the People's Lobby sipped coffee and munched cake in the luxurious senate chamber, the Federal Workers Section was making a demand of the Welfare Board that supplemental aid in the form of more food be given W.P.A. workers who labor at \$60.50 a month.



# Advocates of Maori rights sentenced in frame-up trial

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT  
AND MIKE TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Long-time Maori rights campaigner Tame Iti joined supporters in a defiant *haka* (war dance) as he was sentenced by the High Court here May 24. Iti and co-accused Rangi Kemara were given prison terms of two and a half years on weapons possession charges. Two others, Urs Signer and Emily Bailey, were sentenced to nine months home detention on the same charges.

The four were part of a group of 18 arrested and jailed in October 2007, originally framed up on charges of plotting terrorist attacks in support of Maori claims for land and self-determination.

Iti, a leader of the Tuhoe tribe, has been a prominent leader of the fight for Maori rights for more than four decades.

A jury earlier this year found the four guilty of some firearms charges while dismissing others, but did not convict on the more severe charge of “participating in an organized criminal group.”

But the prosecution and judge rationalized imposing harsh sentences for the relatively minor conviction, as if they were in fact guilty of charges the jury refused to convict on. During the five-week trial the prosecution built much of its case on the defendants’ political support for Maori rights and revolutionary struggles.

“As I view the evidence, in effect, a private militia was being established,” said Judge Rodney Hansen during the sentencing of all four defendants. “Whatever the justification, that is a frightening prospect in our society, undermining of our democratic institutions and anathema to our way of life.”

“I think the people of New Zealand should be thankful the police stepped in and sorted out the rot that was occurring,” Police Commissioner Peter Marshall told TV One News the same day. He claimed the four were members of a group “preparing for serious violent offenses.” Over the following days newspaper editorials and other media commentaries joined the smear campaign.

Following the sentencing, 100 people rallied outside Auckland’s Mt. Eden prison to show support for Iti and Kemara. Another protest was held there May 26. Authorities moved the two to separate prisons outside Auckland on June 1.

“We were expecting a much lesser

punishment,” Tuhoe leader Tamati Kruger told TV One News May 24.

Maori tribal leaders, including from the large Waikato-Tainui federation, issued statements condemning the sentence.

The Maori council of the Council of Trade Unions, the national union federation, voted to support Iti and Kemara and back steps to get their prison terms overturned. “These charges arose out of the illegal terror searches in 2007 that a jury was unable to reach a verdict on. It is out of scope for the judge to take those charges into account in sentencing for these relatively minor firearms charges,” said CTU Vice President Syd Keepa.

A legal appeal against the conviction and sentence was filed May 28.

The frame-up dates back to a police spy operation that began in 2006, using video surveillance and bugs on houses, cars and telephones. On Oct. 15, 2007, more than 300 cops raided some 60 homes across the country, arresting 18 people. In the single biggest assault, heavily armed police laid siege to the rural town of Ruatoki, a center of the Tuhoe tribe where cops claimed “terrorist” training camps were being organized.

The spying and arrests were carried out under the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act. This was the first, and to date, only time the new terrorism law has been used.

In face of protests the solicitor general backed off the “terrorism”

## New Zealand exhibit backs 5 Cuban revolutionaries

BY MIKE TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Some 200 people packed the Satellite Gallery here May 12 for the opening of a two-week exhibition of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández, one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned in the United States for more than 13 years.

Titled “Humour from My Pen,” more than 30 cartoons by Hernández were on show accompanied by displays about the case of the Cuban Five, how they came to be framed up and jailed, and urging support for the campaign to win their release.

An art exhibition titled “Art to Aid the Cuban Five” filled the other half of the gallery. More than 30 New Zealand artists contributed over 50 artworks in support of the five, including prominent painters John Walsh and Gerda Leenards, and illustrator

## Demonstrations in Turkey defend abortion rights



Between 3,000 and 4,000 march June 3 in Istanbul to protest Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s announcement that his government is preparing legislation to curb abortion rights. Among the banners and slogans were “My body, my choice” and “Tayyip, it is none of your business.” Hundreds also demonstrated in Ankara, Turkey’s capital.

Abortion up to 10 weeks from conception has been legal in Turkey since 1983. The new bill would criminalize it after four weeks, according to the *Washington Post*.

Erdogan has also come out against caesarean births, saying they limit women from having more than two children. He advocates every family should have at least three and has suggested financial incentives, warning if fertility rates among Turks don’t increase, Kurds—an oppressed nationality—could become the majority within 30 years.

—EMMA JOHNSON

charges. Prosecutors pressed ahead with firearms charges against 18 defendants, along with charges that Iti and four others were part of a “criminal group,” one of whom—Tuhoe Lambert—died before the case was brought to court.

In September 2011 the Supreme Court ruled police evidence was illegally obtained and could not be used against those facing arms charges alone. The frame-up proceeded against the four facing charges of belonging to a “criminal group.”

Anna Crichton. Income from the sale of these works will help meet the cost of staging the exhibition.

The evening event was chaired by Malcolm Evans, a prominent cartoonist who contributed three original cartoons about “the five men who set out to do something decent.”

Jane Kelsey, a law professor at the University of Auckland, compared the frame-up of the Cuban Five to the frame-up of 18 Maori rights supporters in New Zealand, arrested in 2007 on charges of “terrorism.”

Both cases involve an abuse of rights and hinge on accusations of conspiracy in which the government “doesn’t have to prove anything illegal happened,” she said.

Robert Reid, general secretary of the First Union, said the union had helped sponsor the exhibition because the fight to free the five is a union issue.

Maria del Carmen Herrera, Cuba’s ambassador to New Zealand, described the history of counterrevolutionary attacks on Cuba since the 1959 socialist revolution and why Cuba sent the five to southern Florida in the 1990s to gather information about the groups organizing these attacks. The arrest, prosecution and conviction of the five was “politically manipulated from the beginning,” she said.

Also speaking were Kathryn Lehman, from the Centre for Latin American Studies at the University of Auckland, and Malcolm McAllister,

the exhibition’s curator. The 30 cartoons by Hernández “satirize the 60-year campaign by U.S. governments to get rid of the Cuban Revolution,” said McAllister.

Fourteen copies of the Pathfinder booklet *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should be Free* were sold at the opening.

Following the two-week exhibition, Hernández’s cartoons were displayed at the University of Auckland May 30, introducing hundreds of students to the case. The cartoons will also be displayed at other venues in the country.

## Write to Cuban Five framed-up and jailed in the U.S.

**Fernando González**

Reg. #58733-004, FCI Safford  
P.O. Box 9000, Safford, AZ 85548

➤ Address envelope to “Rubén Campa”

**Antonio Guerrero**

Reg. #58741-004, FCI Marianna  
P.O. Box 7007, Marianna, FL 32447-7007

**Gerardo Hernández**

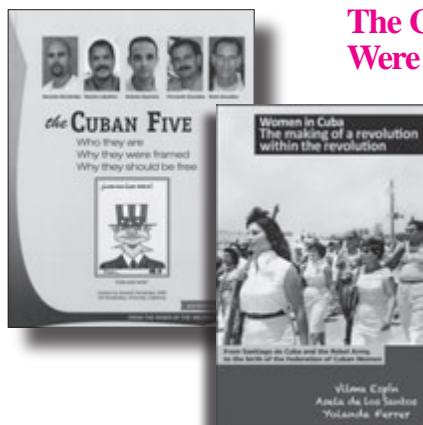
Reg. #58739-004, U.S.P. Victorville  
P.O. Box 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301

**Ramón Labañino**

Reg. #58734-004, FCI Jesup  
2680 301 South, Jesup, GA 31599

➤ Address envelope to “Luis Medina”

\* **René González**, one of the Cuban Five, was released Oct. 7, but is being forced to serve a three-year parole in the U.S.



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# Mariela Castro speaks in US on rights of women and gays

## Cuban Revolution ‘fights all forms of discrimination’

BY BETSEY STONE  
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

Mariela Castro Espín, director of Cuba’s National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), invited to several events in San Francisco and New York in late May spoke on the gains made by women through the Cuban Revolution as well as the advances and challenges in combating discrimination and prejudice against homosexuals. Each of the events was a lively exchange, with audiences that included a range of political views.

Castro was one of about 80 Cuban academics invited to attend the LASA congress, an event that regularly draws several thousand university professors and researchers in Latin American studies, the majority from the U.S. but many from other countries including Cuba.

Washington granted visas to 70 Cubans but arbitrarily denied entry to 10 other well-known Cubans, many of whom have previously been granted visas to teach or lecture in the U.S.

LASA officials and others condemned the visa denials. Meanwhile, opponents of the Cuban Revolution raised a howl of protest over the visa to Mariela Castro because, as Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey put it, she is “a vociferous advocate of the regime” and a daughter of Cuban President Raúl Castro.

In San Francisco, Castro spoke to 150 people who packed into a room at the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Center, where she answered questions by local TV personality Liam Mayclem. On May 29, at a meeting of about 150 people at the New York Public Library, she answered questions from Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In all the meetings Castro received an appreciative hearing from many in the audience, encouraging questions, including highly critical ones, and giving straightforward answers, often sprinkled with humor.

### Advances for women

At the LASA congress, Castro led a panel discussion on sexual diversity attended by nearly 200 people. She began her remarks by explaining that with the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, the Cuban people won their national sovereignty and established a government that defends the interests of the majority,

including women.

“Popular participation in the revolution was decisive,” she said. Women joined in the mass mobilizations to begin to change society, from the campaign that rapidly wiped out illiteracy to the popular militias that were key to defeating Washington’s attempts to overthrow the revolutionary government. “The revolution brought about substantial changes in the conditions of women,” she said.

In 1960 the Federation of Cuban Women was formed, “not to attack men as the problem but to encourage the participation of women together with men in the revolution,” Castro said. The percentage of working-age women in the workforce has grown from 13.5 percent in 1953 to 59 percent in 2008. A substantial number of child care centers were set up for working women. Access to abortion services was provided as part of the national health care system, a public service provided free of charge. “Women have been part of the leadership of this entire process,” she noted.

### Fighting antigay prejudice

At the New York Public Library meeting, Castro said the FMC, whose central leader was Vilma Espín, “has fought against homophobia for many years.” She noted, however, that “in all social processes, there is always a permanent struggle between progressive ideas and retrograde, dogmatic ideas.” Prejudice and discrimination against gays that existed in prerevolutionary Cuba continued, Castro said.

In the discussion period, a questioner said that in the 1960s gay men had been consigned to “concentration camps” and asked Castro whether the Cuban leadership was going to apologize for that.

She replied, “First of all, no, there were no concentration camps.” During those years, she noted, the Cuban people had been mobilizing to defend themselves against imperialist-organized armed assaults and all men were called up for universal military service. Those who did not serve in regular combat units—including religious and conscientious objectors, gays, and others—were assigned to military units engaged in agricultural work known as UMAP (Military Units to Aid Production).

Assigning homosexuals to those



Mariela Castro, director of Cuba’s National Center for Sex Education, spoke at several meetings in San Francisco and New York in late May on gains won by women in Cuban Revolution, as well as progress and challenges in combating antigay prejudice.

units, however, was “humiliating and discriminatory,” she said in the LASA conference discussion. Those units “continued the pattern of homophobia and stigmatizing of gays that prevailed in Cuban society. They lasted only three years, and were closed in 1968.” She noted that “Fidel [Castro] has taken responsibility for this,” referring to a 2010 interview where the Cuban leader said “those were moments of great injustice” against homosexuals and “if someone is responsible, it’s me.”

Replying to the questioner in New York, Castro said calls on the Cuban government to apologize “are hypocritical. That won’t change the past.”

“If it was so simple that all it takes is an apology, then all colonial powers would have to apologize to colonized peoples. All invaders would have to apologize to all invaded countries. All men would have to apologize to women, and so on,” she said to laughter from the audience. “No, what we must do is what we’re doing now in Cuba to change the discriminatory attitudes of the past.”

Describing how changes began, Castro said that in 1972 the Federation of Cuban Women created the National Work Group on Sex Education, a precursor of CENESEX that encouraged public debate on sexual issues. In 1979 the publication of *El hombre y la mujer en la intimidad* (Men and women in intimacy) by East German sexologist Siegfried Schnabel helped combat antigay prejudice by explaining, for the first time in a scientific book in Cuba, that homosexuality is not an illness. “It created a scandal, but it was a best-seller,” she said.

A group of lesbians in Santiago who called themselves Las Isabelas were among the first groups to contact the National Center for Sex Education for support, Castro said. They have been joined by two similar associations, Fénix in Cienfuegos and Oremi in Havana.

In 2007, CENESEX and other gay rights advocates established May 17 as a day to hold an annual March Against Homophobia in Havana and other cities. In a PowerPoint presentation at the LASA congress, Castro showed photos of this year’s march, pointing out prominent Cuban figures in the front contingent such as Miguel Barnet, president of Cuba’s National Union of Writers and Artists (UNEAC), who was also present at the LASA discussion.

Castro said the fight to eliminate barriers to gay and transgender people has often encountered resistance, but continues to advance as prejudices break down. In 2008 Cuba began performing sex-change operations as part of the health care system. And in January 2012

the Cuban Communist Party adopted a resolution “opposing all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation,” she said.

“We continue to fight against any form of discrimination and all injustice,” she said to applause at the San Francisco LGBT Center, where many in the audience were supporters of gay rights but had little knowledge about the Cuban Revolution beyond negative coverage they read in the U.S. mass media.

Castro was asked how Cuba has achieved a low rate of HIV infection—much lower than any other Latin American country or the United States. She cited then-President Fidel Castro’s initiatives in the early 1980s that led to systematic, free HIV testing combined with widespread sex education. In an effort to quarantine the disease, HIV-positive individuals initially were not allowed to freely leave sanitariums established by the ministry of public health, which she called an “unfortunate experience.” Residence at these facilities is now voluntary. Patients receive quality treatment including free antiretroviral drug therapy.

At the New York Public Library meeting, host Rea Carey questioned whether Castro’s advocacy for LGBT rights was not inconsistent with what Carey implied were limits on broader human rights.

Castro replied that Washington targets Cuba because the majority of the Cuban people “have chosen socialism as an experiment in the road toward full human freedom. That puts us in the position of dissidents who confront a world power.” But Cubans “have a right to take the path we have chosen to achieve freedom,” she added.

The U.S. government’s restrictions on travel to Cuba are not only an attack on the Cuban people, she noted, but “violate the rights of Americans to freely travel to and trade with Cuba.”

Asked at the LGBT Center forum what she would say to President Obama if she ever met with him, Castro said she would ask for the release of the Cuban Five, who were framed up and jailed by the U.S. government.

“We have a right to defend ourselves as a people,” Castro said. She noted that the five men had been informing the Cuban government about the actions of counterrevolutionary groups in the Miami area who have a long history of organizing armed attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil.

*Betsy Stone reported from San Francisco, Martín Koppel from both San Francisco and New York. Joel Britton in San Francisco contributed to this article.*



Gay rights group Las Isabelas displaying some of their materials in a park in Santiago, Cuba.



# ‘Fascism makes a show of demagogic anti-capitalism’

The following excerpt is from *Fascism and Big Business*, written in 1936 by French revolutionary Daniel Guerin (1904-1988). The book explains how incipient fascist groups use anti-capitalist and socialist demagoguery to attract primarily disaffected middle-class social layers, radicalized under the impact of deep economic and social crises of capitalism. As the crisis reached a high pitch and mass struggles by millions threatened capitalist rule in Germany and Italy, the book explains, the ruling class, particularly the big bourgeoisie, turned as a last resort to fascist groups, bringing murderous brutality to bear in order to subdue and demoralize the working class and maintain political power. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY DANIEL GUERIN

“Mysticism” is not enough; it fills no bellies. The individuals composing the fascist troops are not all equally fanatic, and even the most fanatic do not forget their material interests. Concern for these interests continues to dwell in their subconscious. In order to win them and keep up their enthusiasm, fascism must *also* hold forth to them a practical solution for the ills from which they suffer. Although in the service and hire of capitalism, it must—and this is what radically distinguishes it from the tradi-



Nazi storm troopers march on Communist Party headquarters, Berlin, January 1932. Employing anti-capitalist demagogy, National Socialist movement duped and won support from ruined middle-class elements and demoralized workers. Lacking was revolutionary workers party capable of leading broad struggle against reactionary threat on road toward conquering power.

tional bourgeois parties—make a show of demagogic *anti-capitalism*.

But this anti-capitalism, if closely examined, is quite different from socialist anti-capitalism; in fact it is *essentially petty bourgeois*. Fascism thus kills two birds with one stone: on the one hand it flatters the middle classes by becoming the faithful interpreter of their most reactionary aspirations; on the other, it feeds the working masses, and particularly those categories of workers lacking class consciousness, with a utopian and harmless anti-capitalism that turns them away from genuine socialism.

But this “pass-key” demagogy will not satisfy everybody. Fascism is obliged therefore to speak, not without understandable embarrassment, to the conscious workers, and to the small peasants hungry for land, in a more radical language. We shall see that they will push this self-styled “socialism” very far—in words. Is it really useful, the reader will ask, to go to such pains to dissect this lying phrasemongering? The undertaking is indeed necessary, both to understand what slogans the fascist demagogues have used to dazzle their followers, and to point up the gulf between promises and fulfillment.



Fascism’s game is to call itself anti-capitalist without seriously attacking capitalism. It first endeavors to transmute the anticapitalism of the masses into *nationalism*. An easy task! In all periods, as we have seen, the hostility of the middle classes towards big capital is accompanied by a tenacious attachment to the idea of the nation. In Italy and Germany particularly, the masses as well are disposed to believe that the enemy is less their own capitalism than foreign capitalism. Hence fascism has no difficulty in shielding its financial backers from popular anger by diverting the anti-capitalism of the masses to the “international plutocracy.”

### In Italy

Long before the war, the syndicalists of the school of Sorel—who were later to become fascists—coupled their revolutionary syndicalism to an increasingly pronounced nationalism. Rossoni discovered that “the fate of the Italian workers is indissolubly linked to that of the Italian nation.” Labriola demanded the right of Italy to try its fortune by leading the crusade against plutocratic Europe. Syndicalists and nationalists joined in proclaiming Italy *the great proletarian*. Mussolini had only to delve

into their writings. From 1915 to 1918 he incessantly repeated that “the war must be given a social content.” Later he declared that the League of Nations “is only a sort of insurance policy of the successful nations against the proletarian nations.” The minister Rocco recalled that “there is not only an internal but an international problem of the distribution of wealth,” and counterposed the poor nations to the rich nations: “The Italian proletariat suffers from the inferior position of the Italian nation with respect to rival nations far more than from the avarice or greed of its employers.” Therefore, in order to improve the condition of the Italian masses, it would be necessary first to improve the international position of the “proletarian nation.”

### In Germany

As early as 1919, the founder of the National Socialist Party, Drexler, asserted that “Toiling Germany is the victim of the greedy Western powers.” Moeller van den Bruck took up the formula of the proletarian nation: “Socialism,” he wrote, “cannot give justice to men if there is no previous justice for nations. The German workers should realize that never before have they been enslaved as they are today by foreign capitalism. . . . The struggle for liberation that the proletariat is carrying on as the most oppressed section of an oppressed nation is a civil war that we are no longer waging against ourselves but against the world bourgeoisie.”

However, it was Gregor Strasser who became the brilliant and tireless propagandist of this synthesis: “German industry and economy in the hands of international finance capital means the end of all possibility of social liberation; it means the end of all dreams of a socialist Germany. . . . We young Germans of the war generation, we National Socialist revolutionists, we ardent socialists, are waging the fight against capitalism and imperialism incarnated in the Versailles treaty. . . . We National Socialists have recognized that there is a connection, designed by providence, between the national liberty of our people and the economic liberation of the German working class. German socialism will be possible and lasting only when Germany is freed!”

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# Join us, protest stop and frisk in NY!

*Below is a statement by Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.*

The Socialist Workers Party encourages working people to turn out for the June 17 march to protest the New York Police Department's anti-working-class and racist stop-and-frisk operations.

The stops—directed disproportionately against young Black and Latino men—represent not only a direct assault on Fourth Amendment protections against arbitrary search and seizures. They are part of a broader assault on the rights of working people in the U.S., including the unparalleled number of workers behind bars or otherwise caught up in the capitalists' criminal "justice" system. And the increasing curbs on workers' rights go hand in hand with boss assaults on our wages and working conditions, accelerated by the deepening crisis of capitalism.

The propertied rulers try to convince working people that the right of cops to stop and frisk us whenever they want is necessary to combat crime—to protect us from each other. We must reject this view—both of the role of the cops and our view of ourselves, the working class.

The police exist to maintain social relations of capitalism, back the political rule of the capitalist class and keep working people in our place—whether we are walking down the street, on the picket line or at a social protest.

We have no interest in working with their police to "reform" stop and frisk. What we need to do is fight to push them back as far as we can.

Freddy Williams, who stopped to talk when I was campaigning on a street corner in Bedford-Stuyvesant to build the June 17 demonstration, explained it well: "At one time police could not come into our neighborhood and pounce on someone because we had unity.



Militant/Doug Nelson

**Dan Fein, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, left, in Brooklyn June 3 building June 17 protest against "stop and frisk."**

We would stand up."

Their "war on crime" is directed against the working class as a whole. On the other hand, the reality that some workers prey on each other is one of our problems. It is a reflection of the dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society that infect our class. The rulers then rationalize their corrupt and repressive police forces on grounds that "morally depraved" sections of the populace must be "kept under control." But breakdowns in working-class solidarity are not fixed by the brutality of capitalist justice or prison life, just the opposite.

Through collective struggle, from the fight against police repression to other working-class battles, we can forge solidarity that advances a sense of our self-worth, turning our backs on the rulers' view of us, and above all its reflection in ourselves and our actions toward each other.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign calls on working people to join us, and join with us on June 17 and beyond.

## Cat workers vote down contract 2nd time

**Continued from front page**

struck the Caterpillar plant here May 1 after rejecting by a 94 percent margin a contract that included a six-year wage freeze, expanding use of "supplemental" workers to 20 percent of the workforce, doubling health care costs, and gutting seniority rights, cost of living increases and pensions.

"The company is still firm on their takeaways," Local 851 President Tim O'Brien told the *Militant*. "The only change was the signing bonus changed from \$5,000 to \$1,000 and three \$700 bonus payments in July, August and September if the whole plant meets a 1.74 production ratio, which we didn't feel was reachable. All the main issues were not addressed. We have even tried mediation. Caterpillar has said no to everything."

The local is setting up a food pantry with contributions that have come in, said O'Brien.

The Joliet plant is Caterpillar's world headquarters for hydraulic parts used in the company's construction and mining equipment.

The company says it has 700 "contingency workers" including salaried employees from other plants as well as temporary workers hired from third-party contractors, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

On May 27 the *Tribune* ran an article titled "Pressure On the Picket Line." It featured an interview with a union member who crossed the line and asserted that "some strikers acknowledge they are losing steam."

This reporter found the opposite in talking to the strikers themselves.

"It's not about the money really," said striker Mike Kara. "It's how they want to treat us and a lot of people prepared for this fight, I'm ready."

"Everybody is sticking together," said Matt Roesel, who has worked at Caterpillar for 18 years.

Send letters of solidarity and contributions to: IAM Local Lodge 851, 23157 S. Thomas Dillon Dr., Ste. B, Channahon, IL 60410.

*Laura Anderson contributed to this article.*

## — LETTERS —

**'Send some gold'**

I came across your newspaper years ago. I am a big fan. Unfortunately it's been years since I've seen it. If you're still producing papers can you please add me to your mailing list? I am an inmate who has been in solitary confinement for the last 15 years. Reading material is like gold in here. I'll be sure to share it with the rest.

*A prisoner  
California*

**Energy policy of proletariat**

It was with great pleasure that I read your commentary on Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant. It is

very rare to read a factual and scientific-based article from a publication on the socialist left, since most are beholden to the "Green" anti-science perspective on energy.

The communist position on

### **'Militant' Prisoners' Fund**

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

energy and industrial development is something many have forgotten. It is the perspective put forward by Lenin in his statement "Communism equals soviet power and electrification." Truer words were never spoken.

*David Walters  
Pacifica, Calif.*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## Stop and frisk protest

**Continued from front page**

took part in a May 31 press conference at the New York Municipal Building to announce their backing of the protest. "Now that Secure Communities is active in New York, the consequences of such [stop-and-frisk] targeting include deportation and the breakup of families," said Chung-Wha Hong, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition.

The action is also being built by a range of groups from other cities in the region.

The march will assemble at 110th Street east of Fifth Avenue in Harlem at 1 p.m. and march at 3 p.m. to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's townhouse on the Upper East Side.

The press conference calling the demonstration was prominently featured in *Ebony* magazine. The New York police "stopped 685,724 people last year alone," the magazine reported, noting "87% of those individuals are people of color."

More than 55 percent of those were frisked; almost 90 percent were never charged with anything.

The number of stop and frisks in New York City has jumped 700 percent since 2002, the New York Civil Liberties Union reported May 9.

Black and Latino males between the ages of 14 and 24 accounted for 41.6 percent of stops here last year, although they comprise only 4.7 percent of the city's population. The number of young Black men stopped exceeds the entire city population of young Black men.

The most common pretext cited in cops' reports for stopping people was "furtive movement."

In 2011, according to the cops' own statistics, they put their hands on 126,000 of those they stopped, pushed 20,000 against a car or wall, threw 2,400 on the ground, pointed a gun at 1,700, pepper sprayed 107 and hit 87 with their clubs.

Supporters of Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, fanned out across the city June 3 to distribute the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper, and build the June 17 protest.

"I'll be there," Josh Wiggins, 42, told campaigners at a table in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a predominantly Black working-class neighborhood in Brooklyn. "It happened to me last week. I was walking home with a friend from a barbecue, we each had a plate of food. Cops suddenly jumped out of their car, made us put our plates on the ground, frisked us and made us show our IDs. When they were done, they said 'go about your business' and left with no explanation.

"Before you would see a group of cops frisking someone, you would assume they probably did something," Wiggins said. "Now when you see it, you assume the opposite."

"I've been stopped plenty of times," said James Brinkley, a 41-year-old African-American. "I have no criminal record, still I get treated like a criminal. I've been frisked and they don't even leave the car."

"There are no rights anymore," Freddy Williams, 59, said. "At one time police could not come into our neighborhood and pounce on someone because we had unity. We would stand up."

"I've been stopped a lot of times by the cops, for nothing," Marco Roman, a young Puerto Rican, told Socialist Workers campaigners on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. "Cops say they're 'looking for someone' and or they have to see if you have a gun. Even if they don't take you in, they write down your name and the information from your ID."

"I know about that protest, my union is going to be there," Desiree Green, a hospital receptionist and member of SEIU 1199, told campaigners in the Bronx. "I'm going. So many young men are being stopped by the police, so many are being killed."

For more information on the demonstration, go to [www.silentmarchnyc.org](http://www.silentmarchnyc.org).

*Deborah Liatos, Susan LaMont, Doug Nelson and Candace Wagner from New York contributed to this article.*

### **Correction**

In the June 11 issue the quote in the ad for the *Militant* on page 2 was incorrectly attributed to Sam Allen. It was from high school student Conner Gee from Lincoln, Neb.